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Docket No. 49458 CPA (71987)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Chen et al.
U.S.S.N.: 09/454,316 GROUP: 1754
FILED: December 3, 1999 EXAMINER: E. Johnson
FOR: CATALYST FOR OXACYLATION AND USE OF SAME

Mail Stop: RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants are filing the instant preliminary amendment and accompanying Request for Continued Examination within seven (7) months of the filing of the Notice of Appeal on November 26, 2002. Applicants request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.